

# **AVIATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION**

## **Pleasant Hill City Council**

**David Freet**

March 15, 2004

### **BACKGROUND**

Established by Board of Supervisors in 1965 – 39 years ago

- 10 members – two from each of the 5 Board districts

By-laws changed in 1977 to add city representatives and some other roster changes bringing membership to 12

By-laws changed June, 2003 to modify membership again and change the purpose & objectives. Committee now has membership of 11:

- 1 member appointed by each of 5 Supervisors
- 1 member from City of Concord
- 1 member from City of Pleasant Hill
- 1 member from Diablo Valley College
- 1 member from Buchanan Field businesses (Fixed Based Operators)
- 2 members at-large – Buchanan vicinity & Byron vicinity
- Purpose & Objectives change was subtle narrowing to those aviation issues related to economic viability and security of airports (vs. any aspect of aviation)

Purposes & Objectives Summary:

- Provide advice and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on aviation issues related to economic viability and security of Buchanan and Byron. AAC may initiate discussions, observations or investigations in order to make its recommendations. It shall advance and promote the interests of aviation and protect the general welfare of the people living and working near the airport and the County in general.

## **2003 HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

### Noise Abatement

- Total complaints down 25%, 2003 over 2002  
375 vs. 499
- 30% due to “life flights” (helicopter)
- Complaints from Pleasant Hill residents down 30%  
117 vs. 168  
PH had 31% of total in 2003

### Buchanan Flight Operations

- Down 14% year-over-year  
119,106 vs. 138,572

Operations down primarily due to effects of 9-11 and move of helicopter school's core operations

Noise complaints and flight operations roughly correlate over the long-term.

But 2003 noise complaints down almost twice as much as flight operations and I feel the following AAC accomplishments helped make this happen:

- 2003 saw AAC initiate a major push to bring pilots, businesses and the communities together
- AAC formed a Community Relations Sub-committee (Pat Howlett, Concord representative, and myself)
- Launched strategy to take our AAC meetings to the community
  - <> First one was in the Pacheco Community Center  
Feb, 2003  
Well attended & good community participation
  - <> Second one scheduled for Concord in August canceled  
due to a city calendar conflict

- AAC supported appointment of public information specialist on airport staff, which produced more community interaction and launching of quarterly Airports Newsletter, First Quarter 2003.
- Assistant in finalizing wording of new signs to remind pilots of their noise abatement responsibilities
- Adopted a community relations strategy, part of which included having the 3 AAC officers adopt the following focus:  
     Chair: Overall committee direction  
     Vice-chair: **Community relations**  
     Secretary: Byron Airport matters

The AAC also accomplished the following in 2003:

- Formed 3 person sub-committee, one of which was myself, to screen applicants for the at-large vacancy
  - <> 12 applicants interviewed & evaluated over 8 hr. period
  - <> Recommendation adopted by AAC and forwarded to the Board Internal Operations Committee (IOC sat on it for months)
- AAC helped to head-off an effort by Supervisor DeSaulnier to radically restructure the AAC, including elimination of Pleasant Hill, Concord and DVC representatives
- Formed a subcommittee to address the \$900K Buchanan Master Plan Update process and the proposed airport closure issue

## **2004 OUTLOOK & ISSUES**

Board of Supervisors' initiative: "Exploring Alternatives to Aviation in Contra Costa County"

- I helped draft a letter in response to Board's request for AAC input  
     Unanimous AAC position: (1.) Process is flawed,  
     (2.) Don't close the airport

Board has formed a Steering Committee to oversee Buchanan Master Plan Update process

- Pleasant Hill has been asked for a representative. If it hasn't responded, should do so ASAP. FYI, Concord has appointed one of its planners.

AAC effectiveness seriously jeopardized by 4 vacant positions – Districts 1, 3 & 5, plus 1 at-large position. Four meetings in 2003 had to be cancelled for lack of a quorum (6). (There are only 7 active members!) We have restarted the process of filling the Buchanan at-large position. Critical that the Board Internal Operations Committee not sit on our recommendation again. Other 3 openings up to the Board to appoint.

My term expires this month. I should either be asked to serve another term or a replacement sought.

As part of our community relations outreach strategy, we would like to have one of our regular meetings in Pleasant Hill this year accompanied by publicity to PH residents in general and neighborhood associations in particular. Any concerns or issues with this?

Any questions?